

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance for use in food preparation, comprising:
 - an elongated light source for emitting light; and
 - a housing having an outer surface that defines at least part of the outer surface of the kitchen appliance, the housing having an elongated cavity ~~extending along at least a portion of the outer housing~~ for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by a first material that is at least partially transparent and which extends to ~~an~~ the outer surface of the housing so that a user of the kitchen appliance can see at least some of the light emitted by the elongated light source when the kitchen appliance is used for food preparation.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the outer housing includes a second material that is substantially non-transparent.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 2 wherein the cavity is at least partially defined by the second substantially non-transparent material.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 2 wherein the

second substantially non-transparent material is at least partially reflective.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 4 wherein the second substantially non-transparent material includes a surface that is shaped to reflect light toward the outer surface of the outer housing.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 5 wherein the second substantially non-transparent material includes a surface that is parabolic in shape.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the first at least partially transparent material is shaped to form a lens at or near the outer surface of the outer housing.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the kitchen appliance produces one or more signals, and ~~a controller controls~~ the elongated light source is turned on and/or off by using one or more of the one or more signals.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the elongated light source is an electro-luminescent wire.

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10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the cavity is a closed cavity.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the cavity is an open cavity.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance is a ~~portable music producing device~~ toaster.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 4 ~~12~~ wherein the toaster turns the elongated light source "on" when the toaster is toasting and "off" when toasting is complete ~~appliance is a stereo component~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the appliance is a ~~household appliance~~ stove.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 14 wherein the stove includes a switch for turning the elongated light source on and off ~~appliance is a kitchen appliance~~.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim 1 wherein the kitchen appliance is capable of causing the elongated light source to blink at a predetermined rate
~~appliance is a communications appliance.~~

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance according to claim ~~16~~ 1, ~~wherein~~
~~the communications appliance is a phone~~ further comprising a switch to turn the elongated light
source on and off.

18-21. (Canceled).

22 (Newly Presented) A kitchen appliance for use in food preparation,
comprising:
an elongated light source for emitting light; and
a housing having an outer surface that defines at least part of the outer surface of the
kitchen appliance, the housing having an elongated cavity that is adapted to receive the elongated
light source such that a user of the kitchen appliance can see at least some of the light emitted by
the elongated light source when the kitchen appliance is used for food preparation.

23. (Newly Presented) A kitchen appliance according to claim 22 wherein the
elongated light source is an electro-luminescent wire.

24. (Newly Presented) A kitchen appliance according to claim 22 wherein the kitchen appliance produces one or more signals, and the elongated light source is turned on and/or off by one or more of the one or more signals.

25 (Newly Presented) A kitchen appliance for use in food preparation, comprising:
an elongated light source for emitting light; and
a housing having an outer surface that defines at least part of the outer surface of the kitchen appliance, the housing having an enclosed elongated cavity that is adapted to receive the elongated light source, the enclosed elongated cavity being at least partially defined by a material that is at least partially transparent such that a user of the kitchen appliance can see at least some of the light emitted by the elongated light source when the kitchen appliance is used for food preparation.

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 26. This sheet, which includes Figs. 25-28 replaces the original sheet including Figs. 25-28. Fig. 26 has been amended to include the reference numeral 552.

Attachments: 1 Replacement Drawing Sheet
1 Annotated Drawing Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks/Arguments

The preceding amendments and following remarks are submitted in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed July 9, 2003. Claims 1-17 and 22-25 remain pending. Claims 18-21 have been canceled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and claims 22-25 have been added. Reconsideration, examination and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant filed a Supplemental IDS on May 6, 2003. However, an initialed copy of the FORM-1449 filed with the supplemental IDS was not included with the July 9, 2003 Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the FORM-1449 filed on May 6, 2003 in due course.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner restricted the originally presented claims into two groups, namely: Group I which corresponds to claims 1-17; and Group II which corresponds to claims 18-21. In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that during a telephone conversation with the undersigned, a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I (i.e. claims 1-17). Applicant hereby affirms this election, and has canceled claims 18-21 without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the title of the invention is not descriptive. In response, Applicant has amended the title to read "KITCHEN APPLIANCE WITH ELONGATED LIGHT SOURCE" to be more consistent with the pending claims.

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In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract because it fails to distinctly describe the claimed invention. In response, Applicant has amended the Abstract to overcome the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "454" has been used to designate both "light source" (page 24, line 5) and "elongated light source" (page 24, line 15). In response, Applicant has amended the specification to recite an elongated light source at page 24, line 5.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference numeral 552, which is mentioned in the description. In response, Applicant has amended Figure 26 to include the reference numeral 552. Enclosed herewith is a red-line drawing of Figure 26 for the Examiner's approval.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 10, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,612,848). In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 9, 11-13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chien (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,299). In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A kitchen appliance for use in food preparation, comprising:
 - an elongated light source for emitting light; and
 - a housing having an outer surface that defines at least part of the outer surface of the kitchen appliance, the housing having an elongated cavity ~~extending along at least a portion of the outer housing~~ for receiving the elongated light source, the cavity being at least partially defined by a first material that is at least

partially transparent and which extends to ~~an~~ the outer surface of the housing so that a user of the kitchen appliance can see at least some of the light emitted by the elongated light source when the kitchen appliance is used in food preparation.

As can be seen, claim 1 now recites a kitchen appliance for use in food preparation. The kitchen appliance includes an elongated light source and a housing. Claim 1 further recites that the housing has an outer surface that defines at least part of the outer surface of the kitchen appliance, and an elongated cavity for receiving the elongated light source. Finally, claim 1 recites that the cavity is at least partially defined by a first material that is at least partially transparent and which extends to the outer surface of the housing so that a user of the kitchen appliance can see at least some of the light emitted by the elongated light source when the kitchen appliance is used for food preparation.

Unlike claim 1, Koch et al. relates to a refrigerator such as a combined refrigerator and freezer that has a pair of compartments separated by an internal wall 15. Located on the forward edge 16 of the internal wall 15 is an electric light structure that includes a fluorescent bulb 20 extending vertically along substantially the entire length of the forward edge 16 and enclosed in a light housing 21. The light housing includes transparent sides 22 and 23 so that both compartments 11 and 12 are exposed to light 20 simultaneously, and an opaque side 24 toward the front of the refrigerator (e.g. adjacent the doors 12 and 14 when they are closed). In the embodiment shown, the opaque side 24 is formed by a sheet of metal plate that extends between the top and bottom cabinet 18 (see Koch et al., column 1, lines 41-55). Notably, Koch et al. state that the doors 12 and 14, when closed, are adapted to make sealing engagement with the forward

edge of the internal wall 15 (see Koch et al., column 1, lines 36-40).

As can readily be seen, Koch et al. does not appear to relate in any way to a kitchen appliance for use in food preparation, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Koch et al. relates to an internal lighting scheme for a refrigerator. In addition, Koch et al. does not suggest a housing that has an outer surface that defines at least part of the outer surface of the kitchen appliance, wherein the housing has an elongated cavity for receiving the elongated light source that is at least partially defined by a first material that is at least partially transparent and which extends to the outer surface of the housing so that a user of the kitchen appliance can see at least some of the light emitted by the elongated light source when the kitchen appliance is used in food preparation, as recited in claim 1. Rather, and as indicated above, Koch et al. suggests providing an electric light structure on the forward edge 16 of an internal dividing wall 15 of a refrigerator, where the electric light is not visible from the outside of the refrigerator when the doors 12 and 14 are closed because the doors are adapted to make sealing engagement with the forward edge of the internal wall 15. For the foregoing reasons, as well as other reasons, claim 1 is believed to be clearly patentable over Koch et al.

Chien is even less related to a kitchen appliance for use in food preparation than Koch et al. Chien relates to an audio or sound pick-up device that includes an illumination arrangement, where the illumination arrangement is triggered by an audio or sound signal generated or processed by the device (see Chien, abstract). Clearly, an audio or sound pick-up device does not relate in any way to a kitchen appliance for use in food preparation, as recited in claim 1. In

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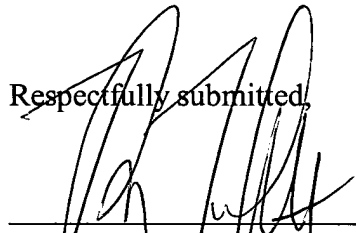
addition, there does not appear to be any suggestion or motivation whatsoever in Chien to adapt the audio or sound pick-up device for use in a kitchen appliance used in food preparation. For these reasons, as well as other reasons, claim 1 is believed to be clearly patentable over Chien.

Finally, none of the other art of record, including those references cited in paragraph 12 (Relevant Prior Art) of the Office Action, appear to relate to a kitchen appliance for use in food preparation, as recited in claim 1. As such, claim 1 is believed to be clearly in condition for allowance. For similar reasons to those given above, as well as other reasons, dependent claims 2-17, and newly presented claims 22-25, are also believed to be clearly in condition for allowance

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims 1-17 and 22-25 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes it would be beneficial to discuss the application or its examination in any way, please call the undersigned attorney at (612) 359-9348.

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Respectfully submitted,



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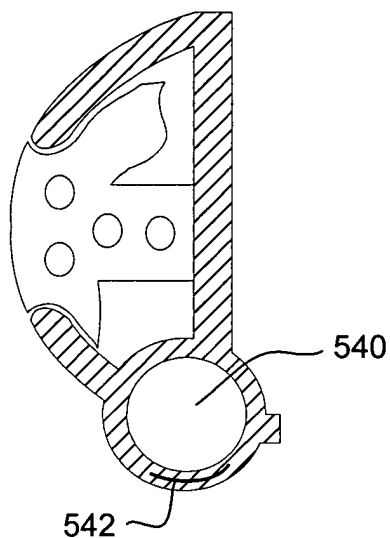


FIG. 25

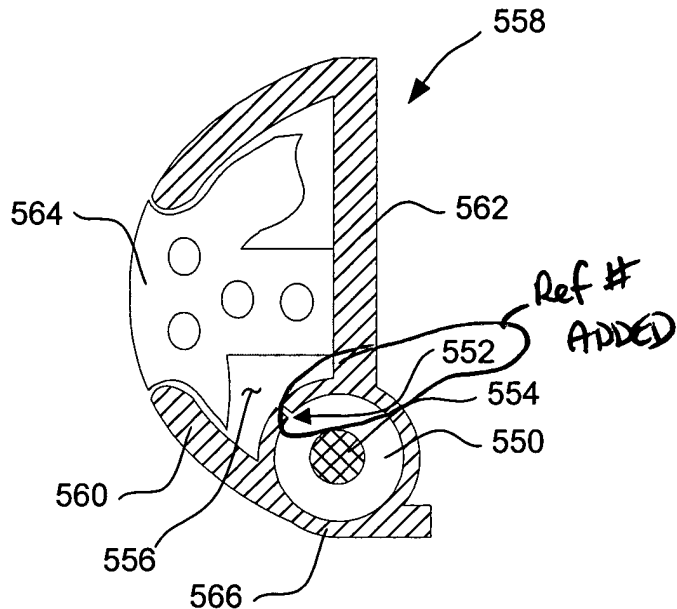


FIG. 26

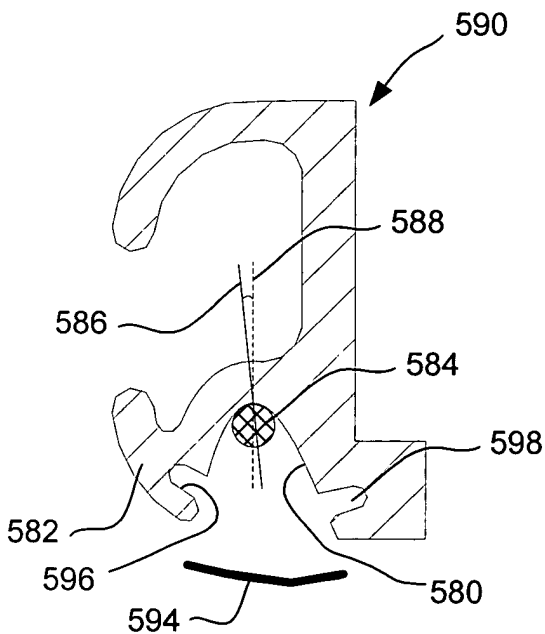


FIG 27

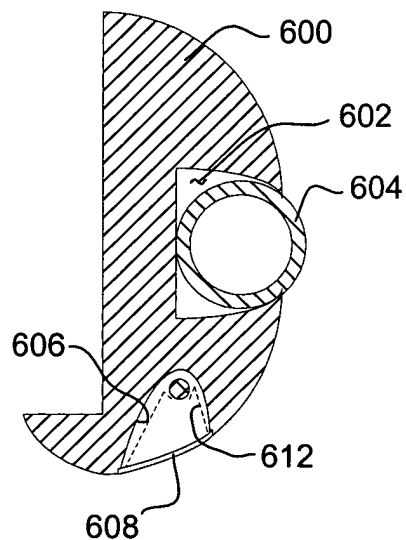


FIG. 28